

REMARKS

1. Abstract

The specification was objected to because the Abstract of the Disclosure was considered not to commence on a separate sheet. Applicant respectfully submits that the Abstract was original presented on a separate page (page 17) of the application. The previously filed amendment included a change to the Abstract, in which the Abstract was written on the same page as another paragraph of the specification being amended. However, nothing introduced a change to the page location of the Abstract in the application.

In any event, the Abstract is being represented here on a separate page, including the previously made change (--REGNOT--). It is respectfully requested that the specification now be approved.

2. Claims

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Houde et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,978,678). Independent claim 3 has been amended as stated above to expressly state that the steps b) and c) are performed by the MSC. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office asserted that Houde et al. discloses the recited step b) at Figures 1 and 3, column 2 lines 33-40, column 5 lines 22-43, and column 6 lines 24-36 of Houde et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees in light of the above amendments. Reviewing the cited figures and passages of Houde et al., when the HLR receives a location request the HLR determines which MSC the mobile station is served at and signals the currently serving MSC with a routing request signal (see column 2 lines 33-40, column 5 lines 22-29, and column 6 lines 24-26). When a TLDN that is assigned by the currently serving MSC in response to the routing request signal is received, the HLR generates an IDAD based on a country code and a city code of

the currently serving MSC (see column 5 lines 30-43, and column 6 lines 26-36). Therefore, the determination of whether the call is international is performed at the HLR 22, rather than at the switching node 34. As stated, claim 3 now expressly requires this determination to be made at the MSC.

The Office also asserted that Houde et al. discloses the recited step c) at Figures 1 and 3, column 2 lines 37-55, column 5 line 29-column 6 line 4, and column 6 lines 26-53 of Houde et al. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this as well in light of the above amendments. Reviewing the cited disclosure of Houde et al., an IDAD is generated by the HLR 22 based on the ID of the currently serving MSC 34 and the TLDN transferred from the currently serving MSC 34 (see column 2 lines 40-45, column 5 lines 35-43, and column 26-36). This means that an MSC of Houde et al. is not related to the generation of the international routing number. As now expressly claimed, in the present invention the international routing number is generated from the currently serving MSC 34, at step c).

Further, claim 5 stands rejected as being anticipated by Houde et al. The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 which depends upon claim 3 is not anticipated by the cited reference for the reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the novelty rejections to these claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houde et al. in view of Koster (U.S. Pat. 6,259,914 B1).

The Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 4 is patentable in light of the amendments to, and remarks regarding, independent claim 3, and for the reasons below. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to this claim is respectfully requested.

The Office considered that steps d) and e) are disclosed by Koster. Applicant respectfully submits that the MDN of Koster does not correspond to the virtual

origination number of the present invention. From a review of the description of Koster (especially col. 3 lines 42-53, col. 5 lines 15-51), the MDN of Koster is assigned by the domestic (or IRS) HLR, but the virtual origination number of the present invention is assigned by the MSC. The MSC does not need to register the roamer to the visited HLR (domestic(or IRS) HLR of Koster) to receive a virtual origination number. Therefore, it is asserted that Koster does not disclose or suggest the virtual origination number as recited in claim 4.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectively requested.

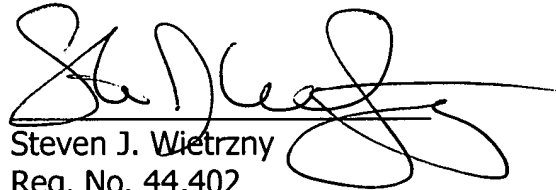
3. Fees

No fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees deemed necessary to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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